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9718 '99 APR 21 AM 1:18

April 21, 1999**Dockets Management Branch
FDA
5630 Fisheries Lane
Room 1801
Rockville, MD 20852****Dear FDA:**

I am writing today to express my strong objection to costly and unnecessary rules which you have been asked to consider by the Center for Science in the public interest.

As one who has worked in the oyster industry for many years and who understands the difficulties faced by farmers, processors and others who rely on shellfish, I can tell you first hand of the economic damage these proposed rules will inflict upon us.

Most people in our industry own small operations with little financial stability and few cash reserves. forcing us to comply with mandatory treatment will drive many out of business altogether and greatly reduce our limited profits even many out of business altogether and greatly reduce our limited profits even further. Simply stated, we can not afford the costly equipment and cannot absorb the consumer demand which will result from treated oysters.

Consumers should have a choice between treated oysters and fresh oysters. the small number of people who may be at risk should heed the ample health warnings available where fresh oysters are sold and assume their own level of personal responsibility.

I urge FDA to reject these crippling rules and to allow other appropriate independent state and national bodies such as ISSC to continue to their educational and oversight activities as they have in the past.

Thank you,



Ivo Jurisch

LtrFDAMermald.wps

98P-0504

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FAX COVER SHEET

BLUE GULF SEAFOOD
4020 22ND STREET NORTH
TEXAS CITY, TEXAS 77590

DATE: 4-21-99FROM: MERMAID SFT

888-945-9523 or 409-945-9523
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2

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COMMENTS: